you pick a bunch at a time. Eventually you pick the whole vineyard. Organizing is no different. You get in trouble when you begin to get away from the fundamental, when you begin to go in the direction of trying to apply all kinds of theories and methods . . .

Chavez speaks persuasively to Levy and the reader about his belief that defeated unions are not finished, but he and his lieutenants are not at all saintly as they describe their instincts to exploit the violence which erupted in the case when Chavez's union suffered setbacks after its 1970 victories.

Aware of the presence of television cameras and the value of public sympathy, Chavez prayed with Dorothy Day—a wrinkled lady of 76—that she would be jailed during one battle in Fresno County, Calif., in the summer of 1973. In another troublesome moment for "La Causa," the chief attorney for Chavez's union, Jerry Cohen, was assaulted by goons in a field near Salinas. As he is about to leave, Cohen shouts out to author Levy, "Hey, Jacques, take a picture of this!"

Levy's book takes the reader into the near present, the spring of 1975. The Chavez fan and the reader of this book, hoping for resolution of the battles and perhaps victory for Chavez, are not the only ones beseeched. The final chapters convey fragments of images, pieces of scene and disjointed narratives. Except for some factual errors (the names of New York's senior Senator is spelled Javitz), author Levy cannot be faulted for the confusion in the final pages. In reality, both Chavez's struggle and the myth of "La Causa" remain unresolved. California's new farm labor law, adopted after the book was finished, has not guaranteed "peace" in the secret ballot elections under that law, in which workers could vote for Chavez, the Teamsters or no union at all, so far have resulted in near the Chavez's United Farm Workers Union and the Teamsters Union, and the ballots in many of the farm elections are presently being challenged. In the end, Chavez and the farm labor movement will have to be written some time in the future, perhaps several decades from now when the facts have become digested and the full effect of the mechanization of farm work is evident. For the present, Levy's careful and sentimentally-restrained book is the most powerful account available of the mood and spirit of Chavez the man and "La Causa" as a movement.